

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Dodd's Ex-Help Undergo Hardships

By Drew Pearson

There was great human drama behind the spectacle of the former assistants of Sen. Tom Dodd, sitting all alone, one by one, at the Senate Ethics Committee witness table while a battery of Wall Street lawyers attempted to tear down their testimony.



Pearson

Dodd's attorneys are Cahill, Gordon, Reindel and Ohl, who represent Standard Oil, RCA, and some of the biggest corporations in the United States. Seven attorneys have been on hand to defend Dodd, four of them sitting at the witness table, three in the front row just behind, unknown to the public, passing notes up to chief attorney John Sonnett.

The public sees much of this. But what it does not see and can never fully realize is the soul-searching that Dodd's former staff members went through before they made the break with their boss. Also the public does not know the sacrifices they have made financially through loss of work.

There was strong indignation among other Senators at first, especially friends of Sen. Dodd, that any Senator's

staff should use his files against him. Latterly there has been a feeling on the part of many Senators that if they were violating their oath of office they could not blame those close to them for informing regarding their activities.

The laws of most states require that anyone who witnesses a crime must report that crime. The Internal Revenue laws also provide for rewards to encourage informants to report on erring taxpayers.

Out of Work

It was after the difficult decision by Dodd's staff to break with him that their troubles began.

James Boyd, his former administrative assistant, has been out of work for months. For a time he served on the staff of the House Public Works Committee. But when Speaker John McCormack learned of this he asked Rep. George Fallon of Baltimore to abolish Boyd's job. He has been out of work ever since.

Marjorie Carpenter, Dodd's former secretary, at first got a position with the Civil Rights Committee of the American Bar Association, but resigned when she felt that her testimony in the Dodd case might be embarrassing to the Committee.

Later she was employed by the law firm of Arnold and Porter, informing them in advance that she was involved

in the Dodd case and doubtless would be called upon to testify.

However, Sen. Dodd learned where she was working and phoned a member of the Arnold and Porter firm to protest. Mrs. Carpenter was promptly fired.

Terry Golden, another member of Dodd's secretarial staff, was employed by Chief Judge David Bazelon of the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia, but was dropped. Miss Golden is now keeping secret where she is employed for fear pressure will be brought on her present employer. Other former members of Dodd's staff are also being silent regarding their present employment.

Space Problems

At a recent hearing, the House Appropriations Committee was listening to evidence about Spacetrack, which maintains surveillance on over 1800 objects that have been shot into orbit.

"Is there really a garbage problem up there at this stage of the game?" asked Rep. Dan Flood (D-Pa.)

"Not in the sense of danger of a collision, but in keeping track of what is up there," replied Alexander H. Flax, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

"Why do you believe there is no danger?" inquired Flood.

"Because of the tremendous amount of volume that these 1800 objects are disposed in,"

said Flax. "It is like the probability of stepping on a flea in Grand Central Station. It could happen, but it is highly unlikely."

Kennedy Calling Long

At the time Sen. Ed Long (D-Mo.) was investigating wiretapping and tracing part of it back to the Justice Department when Bobby Kennedy was Attorney General, Sen. Russell Long (D-La.) got a telephone call.

His secretary announced the call in advance with: "Sen. Robert Kennedy of New York is calling."

When Sen. Kennedy got on the line he said:

"Sen. Long. I must take issue with you on what you've been saying about my work as Attorney General."

And Kennedy proceeded at some length to object to the wiretapping charges.

Finally Sen. Long interrupted.

"I don't know what you're talking about," said Sen. Long of Louisiana. "I haven't said anything about you and the Justice Department. I don't know anything about these wiretapping charges."

"Aren't you Sen. Long?" asked Kennedy.

"I'm Sen. Russell Long of Louisiana," was the reply.

"Oh, you're the nice Long," said Sen. Kennedy.

"Which Sen. Kennedy are you?" asked Sen. Long.

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